



BIG LABOR AT ODDS WITH DEMS ON SOCIAL SECURITY

Labor Unions Attack Efforts To Bring State And Local Workers Into Social Security System While Several Democrats Are Caught Supporting Measure

AFSCME Lobbies To Keep Workers Out Of Social Security System:

About 25 Percent Of State And Local Government Employees Are Not Covered By Social Security. (American Federation Of State, County And Municipal Employees, "AFSCME Criticizes Unfair Social Security Offsets For Public-Sector Retirees," Press Release, 1/10/03)

AFSCME Published Report In 1999 Opposing Efforts To Bring State And Local Workers Under Social Security For State And Local Governments. (Cathie Eitelberg, Alexander Sussman, and Leslie Thompson, "The Cost Impact Of Mandating Social Security For State And Local Governments," The American Federation Of State, County, And Municipal Employees, 5/99)

- **"As A Former Lobbyist For [AFSCME] ... I Know That The Unions Have Lobbied Hard Not To Have Their Members Covered."** (Steven Silbiger, "AFL-CIO Hypocrisy," *National Review*, 10/31/02)

AFSCME Believes State & Local Plans Are More Flexible:

AFSCME Says Social Security Does Not Take Into Account Needs Of Diverse Public-Sector Workforce. "Unlike Social Security, pension benefit programs for public employee groups are generally designed to provide benefits that coordinate with the work-life cycles of plan participants." (Cathie Eitelberg, Alexander Sussman, and Leslie Thompson, "The Cost Impact Of Mandating Social Security For State And Local Governments," The American Federation Of State, County, And Municipal Employees, 5/99)

- **Some Government Workers, Including Police Workers, Would Have To Wait Years For Retirement Under Social Security.** "If Social Security participation is to be mandatory for new hires, it would be likely that a policeman, for example, who retires at age 55 after completing 25 years of service would have to wait seven years to be eligible for an early retirement Social Security pension at age 62." (Cathie Eitelberg, Alexander Sussman, and Leslie Thompson, "The Cost Impact Of Mandating Social Security For State And Local Governments," The American Federation Of State, County, And Municipal Employees, 5/99)

But Many Democrats Have Advocated Bringing State And Local Workers Into Social Security System:

Rep. David Obey's (D-WI): Congressman Obey Has Adopted Parts Of Robert M. Ball's Plan For Social Security, Including "Cover[ing] Newly Hired State And Local Government Workers ..." (Jonathan Weisman, "Competing Visions For Social Security," *The Washington Post*, 2/24/05)

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY): Offered Plan To Bring "Newly Hired State And Local Government Workers Under The Social Security System ..." (Robert A. Rosenblatt, "Liberals Line Up On Social Security," *Los Angeles Times*, 6/24/98)

Former Sens. John Breaux (D-LA) And Charles Robb (D-VA), And Rep. Charlie Stenholm (D-TX) Co-Sponsored Bill To Mandate "OASDI Coverage Of Newly Hired State And Local Employees." (S. 2313, Introduced 7/15/98; H.R. 4256, Introduced 7/16/98)

Democrat Economists Peter Diamond And Peter Orszag: "One prominent Democratic plan, proposed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology economist Peter A. Diamond and Brookings Institution economist Peter R. Orszag, would use a nine-stage battery of revenue-raisers and benefit reductions to produce a Social Security system that would be both in balance and more generous for poor workers ... Under the plan, all new state and local government workers would be brought into the Social Security system, effectively expanding the Social Security tax base to cover the 25 percent of government workers who now are exempt." (Jonathan Weisman, "Competing Visions For Social Security," *The Washington Post*, 2/24/05)

1997 Social Security Clinton Advisory Council "Agreed That New State And Local Government Workers Should Be Brought Under The [Social Security] System." (Robert A. Rosenblatt, "Social Security Panel Offers 3 Reform Plans," *Los Angeles Times*, 1/7/97)

Source: Republican Policy Committee